

being readable on the elected invention, and applicants further elect Species 1 drawn to Figs. 2-6 and list claims 21-33 and 35-38 as being readable on the elected species. Claims 21, 22, 28 and 39 are believed to be generic to Species 1 and 2.

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, restriction was required between Invention I, claims 34, 39 and 40, drawn to an end face polishing method, and Invention II, claims 21-33 and 35-38, drawn to a combination and subcombination of an apparatus for practicing the method. The Examiner stated that the inventions are distinct from one another thereby making restriction proper. In addition, the Examiner required restriction between patentably distinct Species 1 and 2 and required that one species be elected for further prosecution.

In response to the restriction and election requirements, applicants provisionally elect the invention of Invention II and list claims 21-33 and 35-38 as being readable on the elected invention and elect Species 1 drawn to Figs. 2-6 and list claims 21-33 and 35-38 as being readable on the elected species. Applicants further note that claims 21, 22, 28 and 39 are generic to both species. Thus upon the allowance of claims 21, 22, 28 and 39 or other generic or

sub-generic claims, the election of species requirement should be withdrawn as to species claims readable on the allowable generic or sub-generic claims.

Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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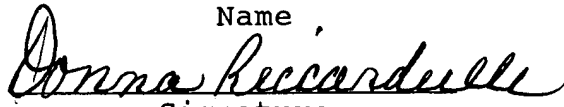
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